

## **Board of Selectmen**

Minutes

Special Meeting

Selectmen's Conference Room

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

3:30PM

**Members Present:** Allan D. Walker Jr., Chandler L. Paquette, D. Mitchell Eaffy

**Others Present:** Donna Stefanik, John Navarro (3:30-4:45PM), Linda Bernardi (4:45-5:00PM), Richard Baron (5:00-5:30PM).

### **1. Call To Order**

**Walker** called meeting to order at 3:30PM.

### **2. Meeting with Department Heads Individually to Discuss Their Current Fiscal Needs**

The Selectmen decided to meet with the department heads to discuss their budgets briefly. They were concerned that the departments have been ask to stay level funded for the past four years and needed to know if there were items that were needed that were not indicated in their budgets.

**John Navarro, Highway Foreman & Transfer Station-** Discussed his budget request for the Highway and Transfer station. The finalization of Highway Project has taken a little longer than anticipated but the committee hopes to have it completed soon. He requested 2 new trucks in his Highway budget because the trucks are getting older and they are the backbone for our town. He will be requesting the selling of old equipment through sealed bid as they have done in the past. He also discussed the storm water compliance for Highway and Transfer Station for the upcoming year. We will continue to do water testing and are under a DEEP mandate to place roofs over the compactors at the dump. A final cost of that project has not been determined. He is planning to have a hazardous waste day for the residents in the near future. The Transfer Station adjustment in staff and hours has gone very well. **No action was taken.**

**Linda Bernardi, Tax Collector-** Reported she is hoping to make her budget by February possibly March of this year. Collections are going well and she discussed that in some towns a \$5.00 fee for the DMV clearance slip is charged. At this time her department does not charge a fee and wanted to make the Selectmen aware of this option. When asked about her thoughts regarding elected verses appointed she responded; "It takes at least three years to become certified and the elected term is only two years. She would like to see it change to a four year term. If you appoint a Tax Collector they have to be certified and it limits your hiring options. If it remains elected you have more people to pick from because they do not have to be certified." **Bernardi** is a certified Tax Collector. **No action was taken.**

### 3. Meeting with Richard Baron- Fire Marshal to Discuss Budget Request

**Richard Baron, Fire Marshal-** Met with the Selectmen to go over his budget and to discuss some type of “fee for inspection option.” Currently we do not charge for public events LP gas inspection, insurance inspections and blasting permits. He would like to see a fee charged to help offset some of the Fire Marshal budget. He submitted a break down for the Selectmen to consider and suggested that all fees be charged & collected through the Building Department. This way he would not personally handle money if the Selectmen decided to implement this “fee for inspection option.” **No action was taken.**

### 4. Budget Adjustment

**Walker** reported the Selectmen made a lot of adjustment during this fiscal year knowing that once again this would be difficult budget year. It was decided when the Transfer Station Operator & First Selectmen Secretary left it would be replaced with 2 part time people instead of 1 full time person for each department. This allowed them to save on health and retirement benefits, a savings of over \$ 56,000. They also requested a wage freeze with the approximate savings of \$57,000. Even with all of those adjustments the Selectmen had to make further adjustments after all budgets were submitted.

The Selectmen adjusted the following budgets from their original request: Finance budget auditing line item -\$550, Election salary line items -\$1,215, health insurance -\$33,153, Historic District -\$275, Open Space -\$100,770, Paramedic Services -\$7,314 and add \$300 to Animal Control, Highway Department -\$38,750 dump truck, Environmental Coatney Hill -\$1,450, Day Kimball -\$500, United Services -\$1,358, Contractual Service YSB -\$4,983, Sexual Assault Crisis+ \$500, Libraries -\$1,818, Beautification -\$665. A total of \$192, 001 had to be adjusted. **Walker** made motion to accept budget adjustments. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

### 5. Citizen's Comments

None.

### 6. Adjournment

**Allan D. Walker Jr.,** motioned to adjourn. **Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 6:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donna Stefanik, Assistant Treasurer

